

The Groundplane

DINNER LOCATION — CHILI GARDEN RESTAURANT 6 PM

JANUARY 2007 VOLUME 8 ISSUE 1

President's Corner - January 2007

Well, this is my first article as the newly minted President of SBARA. I've got some big shoes to fill following Andy, and Al. I figure I'll survive though because I've got such a great team to back me up. So what does this new year hold for SBARA? I imagine if you had asked Andy this question at this point last year there wouldn't have been any mention of the Fremont 50th Anniversary which turned out to be a huge club event for us. I suspect there will be a few surprises in store for me this year along the same lines.

One effort we hope to get rolling this year is actual implementation of a club station that Andy got started this last year. The club station hasn't been approved by Alameda County yet, and we might have to extend some effort in the Public Relations space to make that happen. I imagine I'll be asking for help in organizing such an effort.

If the station is approved, then there is the physical creation of the station. This is it's own set of questions and compromises. What kind of antenna will we be able to put up, and where? What radios go into the station? How do we guarantee access to the station for the largest number of

members?

One exciting idea is to create an "internet enabled" station that would allow any of our club members with a high-speed internet connection to use the station from their home. This would certainly take care of the access issue, but add the costs of paying for an internet feed. See – there are those challenges/compromises sneaking up on us but that is what makes the whole effort interesting.

My first duty as the Pres was to try to line up some speakers for our meetings. The funny thing is that I was able to find someone for February and March is likely booked too, but getting January booked has been tricky. When I asked my board for help – Brad, KB8UYR (our new Secretary) stepped forward and offered to give a talk titled "WiFi for Fun and Profit." Brad describes the talk as follows:

"Wireless networks are springing up in the most unexpected spots. Many are open and operated by small businesses who try to entice customers with free WiFi access or by joint municipal/commercial ventures to provide WiFi to citizens. Using GPS, a laptop, and open source software, WiFi networks can be mapped to show network coverage's."

Hope to see you all at the January meeting!

73 de Steve KA6S



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**"FCC Drops
Morse Code
Testing
Requirements"**

2007 Membership Information — Leadership Team

Membership Renewal Policy

Effective 2007, renewals of membership will only be accepted through March 31st. Beginning on April 1st only new membership will be accepted. Therefore, after April 1st you will be required to pay the \$10 new membership fee to retain your SBARA membership.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR SBARA MEMBERSHIP BY MARCH 31, 2007 TO AVOID THE \$10 NEW MEMBERSHIP FEE.

To save on postage please be aware that the Oc-

tober renewal package that you received is the *only* membership renewal notice you will be receiving in the mail. Accordingly, to save postage we are including your 2007 membership card trusting that you will be sending in your membership renewal fees.

Thank you for your continued support . Looking forward to a eventful 2007.

SBARA Leadership Team

The Amateur's Code — Paul Segal, W9EEA

The Radio Amateur is

CONSIDERATE...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

--The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928



SBARA Christmas Party December 2006



FCC Drops Morse Code Requirement — ARRL & FCC

FCC Drops Morse Code Requirement

From the ARRL

On December 19, 2006, the FCC issued the complete Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code" proceeding, WT Docket 05-235. The R&O follows fast on the heels of the Commission's December 15 public notice announcing the elimination of the Morse code exam requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. The R&O also addresses the ARRL's request to eliminate the disparity between "Tech Plus" licensees (Technicians with Element 1 Morse credit) and Technician licensees – present and future – who have not passed a Morse code test.

Typically, the effective date of a FCC order comes 30 days after its publication in the Federal Register. If that's the case, the new exam requirement and the revised 80-meter segment for automatically controlled digital stations would likely go into effect sometime in February 2007. When the rule changes adopted in the R&O are published in the Federal Register, the effective date will be included in the Federal Register summary.

In any event, the new rules will not go into effect anytime before they show up in the Federal Register.

Once the changes are in effect, all Technician licensees – whether or not they have passed a Morse code examination – will have "Tech Plus" operating privileges. This means you will have all of your current VHF/UHF and above frequencies and also will have access to the

Novice/Technician Plus frequencies on HF. These include: 3525-3600 kHz CW only; 7025-7125 kHz CW only; 21,025-21,200 kHz CW only; 28,000-28,300 kHz CW, RTTY and Data; 28,300-28,500 kHz CW & SSB. The power limit is 200 W PEP output for Technician operators.

You don't need to pass a Morse Code test to use CW on the air—any Amateur Radio licensee who wishes may use Morse code on the amateur frequencies they are authorized to use – except the five USB-only channels at 5 MHz.

Technicians can upgrade to General by passing the Element 3 written exam and to Amateur Extra by also passing the Element 4 written exam. No Morse code test will be required.

There are no additional new privileges available to Technician/Tech Plus licensees as a result of WT 05-235. The R&O does not change the operating privileges of Novice, General, Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees either.

One the ruling takes effect, amateurs who hold a non-expired CSCE for Element 3 (General Class Written Test) credit, will need to go to take the CSCE to a VE test session, pay the test session fee, if any, and have the examination team prepare and submit the paperwork for your license upgrade.

If your CSCE for Element 3 credit has expired or expires before you attend a test session to process your upgrade, you will have to retake the examination element in order to receive the credit toward your upgrade. The test session fee will apply.

The R&O does not change operating privileges for Novice, General, Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees.

Complete information, including a FAQ list and the text of the order can be found on the ARRL web site (<http://www.arrl.org/>)

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(YSK-857 required)

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- Alphanumeric display
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- Auto Dialer

Low Pricing!

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- 100 mems • Built-in TNC 1200 & 9600 Baud
- Front Panel GPS in • Rear DB-9 port
- CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode built in

Low Pricing!

South Bay Amateur Radio Association

Founded 1974

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Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

WA6PWW - 147.015 +600Khz, PL 103.5

WA6PWW - 223.900 -500Khz, PL 107.2

WA6PWW - 442.600 +5Mhz, PL 107.2

N6OXR - 146.940 -600Khz, PL 123.0

N6OXR - 441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0

ARES - Tuesday @ 7:30pm - 147.015 + PL 103.5

CW - Tuesday & Thursday on 75 meters—3.880
& on 10 Meters at 28.400 MHz, @ 8:30 p.m.

Groundplane SBARA Newsletter
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can be sent by email to hamradio@comcast.net or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines. The opinions expressed in the Groundplane are strictly those of the authors.



Announcements

SBARA monthly meeting:

January 12th.

Veterans Hall in Niles

Support Your Club. Come to the
Monthly Meeting

The Ground Plane — KU6S

<http://www.sbara.org>

South Bay Amateur Radio Association — SBARA

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